

RESTRICTION

The Examiner has identified claims directed to what he considers four distinct inventions, namely:

- Group I Claims 1-13;
- Group II Claims 14-26;
- Group III Claims 27-36; and
- Group IV Claims 37-41.

The Examiner has required restriction of the invention for examination purposes to one of these groups.

In response, the Applicant hereby elects Group III, claims 27-36, for immediate consideration. At the same time, the Applicant submits herewith new apparatus claims 42-51 which closely parallel the elected method claims. The Applicant respectfully submits that new apparatus claims 42-51 can be examined together with the corresponding method claims 27-36 without any undue burden on the Examiner.

Non-elected claims 1-26 and 37-41 have been canceled without prejudice, to be presented in a divisional application in due course.

ELECTION OF SPECIES

For examination purposes, the Examiner has indicated that the invention should be limited to elected species as follows:

- A. One dopant from the list of claim 44;
- B. A pulsed laser source or a continuous laser source;

For examination purposes, the Applicant hereby elects:

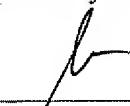
- A. Gold as a dopant; and

B. "Substantially continuous" laser source for irradiation (according to the terminology defined in the specification and used in claim 34).

Claims which the Applicant believes are either generic or read on the elected species include the following: Claims 27-32, 34-36, 42-47 and 49-51. The Applicant requests that non-elected claims 33 and 48 be rejoined and examined in the event that a generic independent claim is found to be allowable.

The Applicant believes that the application is now ready for substantive examination and looks forward to receiving the Examiner's findings.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: June 8, 2007